

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the claims with the following amended set.

1. (Currently amended) A method of installing a double ended distributed sensing optical fiber assembly within a guide conduit, the method comprising:

- providing a distributed sensing optical fiber assembly having a first elongate section with a first proximal end and a first distal end, and second elongate section with a second proximal end and a second distal end;
- providing a nose section, which interconnects the first proximal end to the second proximal end such that light transmitted along the length of one section of fiber optical cable is transmitted via the nose section into the other section of fiber optical cable;
- inserting the nose section into the guide conduit such that the nose section moves through the guide conduit ahead of the first elongate section and second elongate section; and
- connecting the first distal end and second distal end to a light transmission and receiving unit;

wherein the nose section has an outer width which is less than 1 cm and the nose section, the first elongate section, and the second elongate section are formed from a single fiber optical cable that which is bent into a U-shaped configuration in a region of the nose section and the fiber optical cable is stretched in the region of the nose section such that the fiber optical cable has a smaller width in the region of the nose section than in most other parts of the fiber optical cable; and

wherein the fiber optical cable is heated when it is stretched and the bent section of stretched fiber optical cable is embedded in a nose-shaped body of material having a lower light reflection index than the stretched fiber optical cable embedded therein.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nose section has an outer width which is less than about 5 mm and the guide conduit has an internal width which is less than about 10 mm.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1-3, wherein said nose shaped body has a substantially cylindrical shape and an outer diameter less than 3 mm.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method of installing a double ended distributed sensing optical fiber assembly within a guide conduit, the method comprising:

- providing a distributed sensing optical fiber assembly having a first elongate section with a first proximal end and a first distal end, and second elongate section with a second proximal end and a second distal end;
- providing a nose section, which interconnects the first proximal end to the second proximal end such that light transmitted along the length of one section of fiber optical cable is transmitted via the nose section into the other section of fiber optical cable;
- inserting the nose section into the guide conduit such that the nose section moves through the guide conduit ahead of the first elongate section and second elongate section;
- and
- connecting the first distal end and second distal end to a light transmission and receiving unit;

wherein the nose section has an outer width which is less than 1 cm and the nose section, the first elongate section, and the second elongate section are formed from a single fiber optical cable that which is bent into a U-shaped configuration in a region of the nose section and the fiber optical cable is stretched in the region of the nose section such that the fiber optical cable has a smaller width in the region of the nose section than in most other parts of the fiber optical cable; and

~~The method of claim 1~~, wherein the light transmitting and receiving unit is configured to transmit light pulses or pulsed and continuous waves alternatingly or simultaneously into the first distal end and the second distal end and to acquire distributed sensing data from light backscattered from different points along the length of the first elongate section and the second elongate section to the distal end into which the light pulses are transmitted.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the distributed sensing fiber optical assembly is configured as a distributed temperature sensor assembly, and wherein each section of distributed sensing fiber optical cable passes through a reference region in which the fiber optical cable is exposed to a known temperature.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said reference region is formed by a chamber in which the temperature is monitored, in which chamber a selected length of each section of distributed sensing optical fiber is coiled.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nose section and at least a substantial part of the distributed sensing fiber optical cables interconnected thereby are inserted into the guide conduit by pumping a fluid from one end towards another end of the guide conduit.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the guide conduit is installed within or in the vicinity of an elongate fluid transfer flowline.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the fluid transfer flowline is an underground inflow region of an oil or gas production well.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the temperature or pressure of fluids flowing through at least part of an inflow region of an oil or gas production well are monitored by a distributed sensing fiber optical assembly and the method is used to monitor and/or control the production of oil or gas.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least substantial parts of the first elongate section and second elongate section are arranged side by side in a protective stainless steel tube having an outer diameter from about 1 to about 3 mm, which tube is connected to a protective end cap in which the nose section is arranged and which tube is inserted into the guide conduit.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein a plurality of fiber optical sensing assemblies extend side by side through the protective stainless tube, which sensing assemblies monitor pressure, temperature or acoustic data and which are coupled to a series of flow, pressure, temperature, acoustic or seismic data monitoring assemblies.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least substantial parts of the first elongate section and second elongate section are arranged side by side in a jacketed flexible protective tube, which is provided with a moulded end cap in which the nose section is arranged.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the guide conduit has a substantially straight shape and is at a lower end thereof equipped with a check valve, such that when the double ended fiber and nose section are pumped into the guide conduit the pump fluid is discharged from the guide conduit through the check valve.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the optical fiber assembly is inserted into the guide conduit which extends into a subsea well by means of a remotely operated subsea pod, which is removably mounted on a subsea wellhead.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the protective stainless steel tube is arranged within a larger outer diameter stainless steel tube, such as a 1/4" about 6 mm outer diameter control.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the guide tube is formed by the casing of an oil or gas production well and the double ended distributed sensing optical fiber assembly is strapped to the production tubing of the oil or gas production well, or otherwise inserted into the well.

21. (Currently amended) A method of installing a double ended distributed sensing optical fiber assembly within a guide conduit, the method comprising:

- providing a distributed sensing optical fiber assembly having a first elongate section with a first proximal end and a first distal end, and second elongate section with a second proximal end and a second distal end;
- providing a nose section, which interconnects the first proximal end to the second proximal end such that light transmitted along the length of one section of fiber optical cable is transmitted via the nose section into the other section of fiber optical cable;
- inserting the nose section into the guide conduit such that the nose section moves through the guide conduit ahead of the first elongate section and second elongate section;
- and
- connecting the first distal end and second distal end to a light transmission and receiving unit;

wherein the nose section has an outer width which is less than 1 cm and the nose section, the first elongate section, and the second elongate section are formed from a single fiber optical cable that which is bent into a U-shaped configuration in a region of the nose section and the fiber optical cable is stretched in the region of the nose section such that the fiber optical cable has a smaller width in the region of the nose section than in most other parts of the fiber optical cable; and

~~The method of claim 7,~~ wherein the distributed sensing fiber optical assembly is configured as a distributed pressure sensor assembly; wherein each section of distributed sensing fiber optical cable passes through a reference region in which the fiber optical cable is exposed to a known hydraulic pressure.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the reference region is formed by a chamber in which the pressure is monitored, in which chamber a selected length of each section of distributed sensing optical fiber is coiled.